

Visiting Rockport

The Rockport Pheasant Farm is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to dusk. It is located on Rockport Rd. (Rt. 629) roughly 3.5 miles south of Main St. (Rt. 46), Hackettstown, in scenic Warren County.

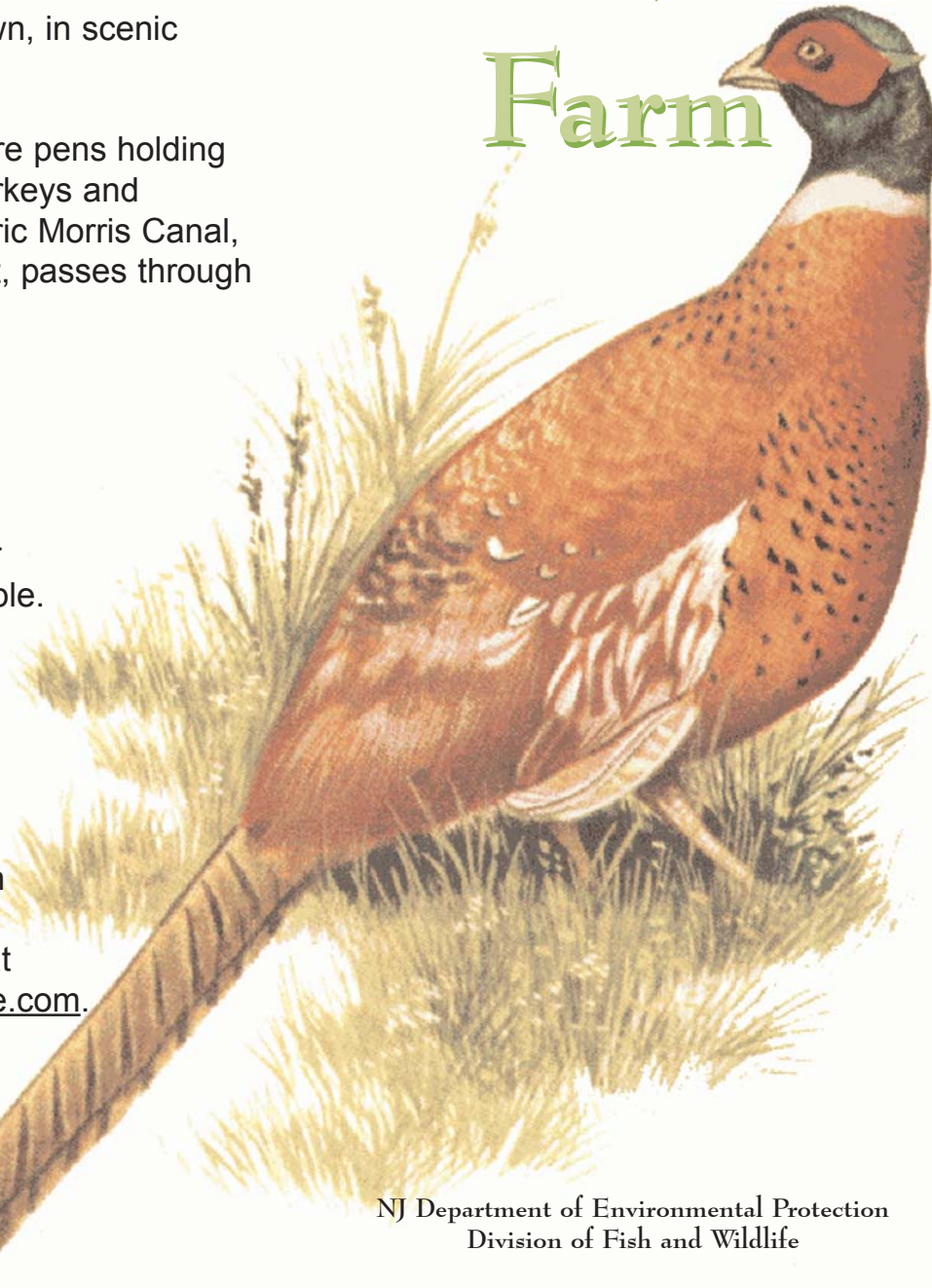
At Rockport, there are pens holding exotic pheasants, turkeys and peacocks. The historic Morris Canal, its towpath still intact, passes through the farm.

There are no food or toilet facilities available.

For more information call 908-852-3461 or visit our website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.



Rockport Pheasant Farm



NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife



The Farm

The Rockport Pheasant Farm is a 492-acre facility operated by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Every year, the Rockport Pheasant Farm produces approximately 50,000 ring-necked pheasants for the sporting public. Acquisition of the farm began in 1912 and was completed in 1925. The first pheasants were released from the farm in 1923. Since then, more than 2 million pheasants have been raised at Rockport.

The birds raised at Rockport are stocked for "put and take" hunting on 26 Wildlife Management Areas throughout New Jersey and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Fort Dix.

Why Pheasants?

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pheasant Program provides over 160,000 man-days of outdoor recreation every year. More than 15,000 hunters participate in pheasant hunting annually.

The Pheasant Program generates \$2.6 million in income to local businesses such as gas stations, motels, diners, taxidermists and sporting goods stores. The cost of raising pheasants is paid for completely by hunters who purchase Pheasant/Quail Stamps in order to participate in the program. No state dollars are used for the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pheasant Program.

Raising Birds at the Pheasant Farm

Breeder Yards

Each year, 190 male (cock) pheasants are placed in “breeder yards” with 2700 females (hens). This results in about 160,000 to 170,000 eggs being laid between mid-March and the beginning of July. Eggs are collected three times a day and taken to the “egg room”.



Egg Room

The eggs in the egg room are disinfected, sorted and placed in trays. The room temperature is maintained at 55 degrees F. to keep the eggs dormant until they are moved into incubators.



Incubation

Pheasant eggs require 24 days to hatch. The first 17 are spent in forced-air circulating incubators which automatically roll the eggs five times daily. The final 7 days are spent in flat hatchers. Hatching ends by August.



Rockport's Future

The Rockport Pheasant Farm continues to upgrade and modernize as technology improves and funding becomes available. In addition to serving the sporting public, the farm preserves valuable open space and is a popular destination for families and school groups seeking to learn about wildlife and enjoy nature.



Brooder Houses

After hatching, chicks are moved to brooder rooms. They stay in these temperature controlled rooms until they are 6 weeks old, then they are moved outdoors to the range pens.

Range Pens

Over 35 acres of range pens house the pheasants until fall. The pens are planted in cover crop (Sorghum) to provide the birds with protection from the weather. In the pens the males will grow to 2.5-3 pounds, females to about 1.5 pounds.



Distribution

Beginning in early November, the pheasants are run into a large (24' x 300') building. Here they are crated and loaded onto trucks for distribution. The birds will be stocked on approximately 100,000 acres of state Wildlife Management Areas.

